

AMENDMENT

Kindly amend the application, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, to read as follows:

- 1-12. (Cancelled)
13. (New) A method of identifying a molecule suitable for the treatment or alleviation of pain, the method comprising determining if a candidate molecule is an agonist or antagonist of a Mowgli polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6 or SEQ ID NO: 8 or a sequence having at least 90% sequence identity thereto.
14. (New) A method according to claim 13, in which the candidate molecule is exposed to a Mowgli polypeptide in order to determine if the candidate molecule is an agonist or antagonist thereof.
15. (New) A method according to claim 13, in which candidate molecule is exposed to a cell expressing a Mowgli polypeptide.
16. (New) A method according to claim 15, in which a change in intracellular cyclic AMP (CAMP) or calcium levels is detected.
17. (New) A method according to claim 15, in which a decrease in intracellular cyclic AMP levels is detected to identify an antagonist of Mowgli polypeptide.
18. (New) A method according to claim 15, in which an increase in cyclic AMP levels is detected to identify an agonist of Mowgli polypeptide.
19. (New) A method of identifying an agonist or antagonist of a Mowgli polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6 or SEQ ID NO: 8 or a sequence having at least 90% sequence identity thereto, the method comprising administering a candidate molecule to an animal and determining whether the animal exhibits an increase in sensitivity to pain.

20. (New) A method according to claim 19, in which the animal expresses functional Mowgli polypeptide.

21. (New) A method according to claim 19, in which the animal is a wild type animal.

22. (New) A method according to claim 19, in which the animal is a rodent, preferably a mouse.

23. (New) A method according to claim 19, in which the determination is made using a Tail-Flick Test.

24. (New) A method for providing an indication useful in the diagnosis of or a determination of susceptibility to pain in an individual, the method comprising detecting a change in the expression pattern or level of a Mowgli polypeptide having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6 or SEQ ID NO: 8 or a sequence having at least 90% sequence identity thereto in a sample from the individual.

25. (New) A method for providing an indication useful in the diagnosis of or a determination of susceptibility to pain in an individual, the method comprising detecting a polymorphism in a Mowgli polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 10 or a sequence having at least 90% sequence identity thereto, in a sample from the individual.

26. (New) A method according to claim 13, in which the agonist or antagonist comprises an immunoglobulin, preferably an antibody preferably capable of binding specifically to a Mowgli polypeptide having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6 or SEQ ID NO: 8 or a sequence having at least 90% sequence identity thereto.

27. (New) A method according to claim 13, in which the pain comprises neuropathic or inflammatory pain.